

Biodiversity: Conservation

4.2.5 Outline the factors used to determine a species' Red List conservation status

→ What is the Red List?

brings together countries, gov. agencies, NGOs, scientists

- Run by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
- Categorizes organisms into a scale of organisms

Extinct — Endangered — Vulnerable — Least Concern

→ Factors that determine where an organism is placed on the Red list

A. Population Size-

- Small pop size = ↑ threatened
- ↓ pop. density = ↑ threatened

B. Reduction in Population Size

- Sudden & large pop. drops = ↑ threatened
- even if there is a large pop. currently large drops in size could mean background problems
↳ disease, habitat problems, etc.

C. # of Mature Spp.

- # of orgs. at breeding age
- if pop is too old - ↓ births
- if pop is too young - ↓ births
(at least for a while)

D. Geographic Range-

- larger geographic range = ↓ threatened
- endemic spp = ↑ threatened

E. Degree of Habitat Fragmentation

- ↑ fragmentation = ↑ threatened
↳ orgs. can't migrate
small genetic diversity
smaller pop. size.

F. Quality of Habitat

- ↓ quality = ↑ threatened
↳ example - build a dam means no more spray for spray toads.

G. Area of Occupation

- Smallest area essential at any stage to the survival of a population.
- ex. nesting sites, feeding areas for migratory orgs, Salmon runs

H. Probability of Extinction

- Statistics showing likelihood of orgs. bc. extinct.